

THE AMOS GAGER THROOP  
COLLECTION

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MICROFICHE EDITION



A. G. Throop

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COLLECTION

*A Guide to the Papers in  
The Archives of The California Institute of Technology  
and  
The Chicago Historical Society*

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MICROFICHE EDITION

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PREFACE

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Pasadena, California*

1990

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Note: The Frontispiece and the photograph of Martha Throop Vaughan are reproduced through the courtesy of Mrs. Martha Vaughan Smith. All other illustrations are the property of the Archives of the California Institute of Technology.

## PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Without the intervention of Horace Gilbert, this guide would probably not exist. One day early in 1982, Gilbert, professor emeritus of business economics at Caltech, introduced me to Mr. Dan Throop Smith and his wife, Martha Vaughan Smith. Mrs. Smith is a direct descendent of Amos Gager Throop, who founded the school that would become the California Institute of Technology. Her husband and distant cousin, Dan Throop Smith, was a great-grandson of Throop's first cousin.

Amos Throop and the history of Caltech were very much on my mind. Recently Alice Stone and I had completed our booklet, "Caltech's Throop Hall," as part of the Institute's ninetieth birthday celebration. I was preparing a talk on Caltech's history to be delivered at the Athenaeum. The meeting with the Smiths seemed especially propitious. Sadly, Mr. Smith died in May, 1982, before the Throop project got under way.

Several months later, Mrs. Smith and her brother, David Throop Vaughan, decided to donate their family papers to Caltech and to the Chicago Historical Society. In addition, in recognition of Amos Throop's role as founder of Caltech, Mrs. Smith provided funds to the Institute Archives for the preservation and interpretation of the Throop legacy. She also made possible the beautification of the site where Throop



Hall had stood for sixty-five years.

In 1983, I made plans to unify the two Throop collections, one at Caltech and one in Chicago, through a microfiche edition. With the cooperation of Archie Motley, curator of manuscripts at the Chicago Historical Society, the Throop papers were microfilmed in Pasadena between 1984 and 1986. The present guide to the microfiche edition, with its ample introductory essay, thus brings to fruition a project that has grown in scope over the course of several years.

I owe special thanks to Edward Baum of the Caltech development office, who assisted the Archives and Mrs. Smith in setting up the Throop project. Carol Bugé, then assistant archivist, organized the entire Throop collection, masterminded the microfilming, and began the research for the present guide. Shelley Erwin, assistant archivist, wrote the present introduction and saw the guide through production. Heidi Aspaturian and Paula Hurwitz provided valuable editorial commentary. Noelle Jackson and Loma Karklins prepared the manuscript for publication.

Inquiries about the availability of the Throop microfiche edition should be addressed to: Archivist, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California 91125.

Judith R. Goodstein  
Archivist  
California Institute of Technology  
January 1990

INTRODUCTION TO THE  
AMOS GAGER THROOP COLLECTION

The life of Amos Gager Throop forms the first chapter in the history of the California Institute of Technology. His story belongs as well to the history of westward expansion in nineteenth-century America and to the chronicles of the State of California and the cities of Los Angeles and Pasadena. It exemplifies the peculiar blend of soaring vision, hard practicality, and moral earnestness that underlie the traditional institutions of America.

Throop (pronounced "Troop") was the very pattern of the self-made man. He was born in 1811 in New York State to a condition of poverty, hard labor, and ignorance. In time he rode the westward movement to a position of wealth and concomitant civic and personal eminence. He contributed significantly to the building of two very different American cities--Chicago and Pasadena. In the latter, as the crowning achievement of his long life, he founded his own university. This school would become the California Institute of Technology, one of the country's finest scientific and educational institutions.

Despite his vast accomplishments, Amos Throop remained a simple, modest man. He was distinctly conscious of his lack of formal education. In his autobiography he writes candidly: "I had never enjoyed

a favorable opportunity for schooling, my labor being needed at home both summer and winter on account of our poverty." This dearth of schooling was to be, if anything, a spur to achievement. And, to paraphrase Emerson, life was his dictionary. Not book-learning, but agriculture, trade, manufacturing, and of course, human nature, formed the substance of Amos Throop's education. He personifies Emerson's image of the independent, pragmatic spirit of nineteenth-century America: "Life lies behind us as the quarry from whence we get tiles and copestones for the masonry of to-day."<sup>1</sup>

#### ABOUT AMOS THROOP

In his remarkable "Memorandum of a Few of the Incidents of My Past Life," written in 1877, Amos Throop identifies his birthplace as De Ruyter, Madison County, New York. There he saw the light on July 22, 1811. His parents, William and Nancy (nee Mason) Throop, had come to central New York from Connecticut. Amos Gager was the third of seven children and appears to have gone by his middle name in the family circle. The year after his birth, his family moved to Preston in neighboring Chenango County. Thereafter they relocated several times, but within a narrow radius,

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<sup>1</sup>Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The American Scholar," 1837. In Selected Writings of Emerson, ed. Brooks Atkinson, Modern Library Edition, 1950.

eventually returning to Preston in 1827, the year following the death of Amos's mother.

Amos's account of his boyhood reveals a hard and precarious existence. His father's drinking and his own lack of opportunity for schooling are prominently treated. Sometime before the age of ten he recalls being commandeered to pass the liquor at a logging bee and witnessing the eventual breaking up of the festivities in a bloody, drunken brawl. Writes Amos: "I became alarmed and ran to mother. When she, with a look of despair, seated herself and took me in her arms and said, 'My son, my son, will you ever be a drunkard.' I promised I would not and have kept the promise. And I seldom ever see a drunken man but what I think of that scene and what my mother said to me." As a result of this experience, young Amos became a staunch teetotaler and an active supporter of the temperance movement.

William Throop eventually did reform, but not in time to keep his family together. Mrs. Throop died in 1826, "having lost her reason," in despair over her husband's drinking. The elder Throop remarried and left with the two youngest children for Catteraugus County in western New York State. For five years Amos worked at various jobs in Chenango County and then determined to go west himself. He left Norwich, New York, on May 22, 1832, just three months to the day prior to his twenty-first birthday.

The settlement of western New York and the Great Lakes region was greatly facilitated in 1825 by the opening of the Erie Canal. On his way west, Amos Throop rode on a lumber wagon to Utica, from where he took a line boat on the Canal to Buffalo. From Buffalo, he and several companions travelled via steamboat by way of Cleveland to Detroit, in what was still the Michigan Territory. From there they progressed north up the St. Clair River to Port Huron. At Port Huron, little more than a cluster of log cabins, they boarded a dugout and paddled sixteen miles up the Black River through dense forests to reach the site of a sawmill. It was June 12 and very warm weather.

At this point, the young pioneer almost lost his life. He was prostrated for three months by a sickness from which he despaired of recovering. He even picked out a burial site. Thus he passed his twenty-first birthday. The next six years Amos spent working in the sawmills along the Black River and rafting the lumber down to Detroit. During this time his entrepreneurial abilities began to develop. He invested in a steamboat line from Detroit to Port Huron but barely got his investment out of it. He then put his money in timber land.

In 1837 Michigan became a state. Amos's timber land and a farm became part of the newly incorporated town of Clyde. Throop was elected town clerk and

managed by a majority of one vote of his council to keep Clyde free of liquor. He also served the town of Clyde as constable, highway commissioner, town collector, and justice of the peace.

In 1838, after a courtship by correspondence, Amos went back to New York to marry Eliza Wait of Preston. Although he reports having had no conversation with Eliza in person on the subject of marriage, he was well acquainted with the Wait family: his older sister, Abigail, had married Solomon Wait, a brother of Eliza's, a few years before. Amos and Eliza were married on October 18 and on the 23rd they set out, accompanied by Eliza's father (also named Solomon) and Amos's sister Lydia, for Michigan. The marriage was to last for fifty-six years, until Amos's death in 1894. Amos and Eliza lived in Clyde for five years. Their two sons were born there, George on January 24, 1840, and William on September 23, 1841.

Still the westward movement continued. In 1842, two of Eliza's brothers came through Clyde on their way west. They eventually settled in LaSalle, Illinois. Cousins on the Throop side went into Iowa. Amos and Eliza determined to seek better opportunity than Clyde offered, and so in May, 1843, eleven years to the day, Amos records, of his leaving New York for the West, the family set out by steamer for Chicago. There Amos committed himself to business rather than to farming, in contrast to most of his westward-moving relatives.



Amos Throop and son George, Chicago, circa 1860-62.

He began by setting up a lumber business in partnership with Solomon Wait and his brother John Throop. Amos's daughter Martha was born in Chicago on September 25, 1843.

Amos Throop's Chicago years--from 1843 until his first trip to California in 1880--were enormously productive, yet full of ups and downs. Although rapidly becoming the commercial center of the West, Chicago was still a frontier town when the Throop family settled there. Its economy was shaky, its society rough at times. Teetotaler Amos especially dreaded the Fourth of July, "celebrated with saltpeter, whiskey and patriotism." There were various cholera epidemics, and other diseases took their toll. A fourth child, Mary, born January 8, 1849, died on November 3, 1852. Son William died of typhoid in 1860, two days before his nineteenth birthday.

Amos's entrepreneurial talents continued to mature. He bought and sold residential and commercial property, dredged and built, continued his lumber business, ran a brick yard and a coal company, speculated in stocks. Following the crash of 1857, and again in 1871 after the disastrous Chicago fire, he was on the point of financial ruin, but each time he managed to build his fortunes back up. During these years he was a member of the Chicago Common Council, the Chicago Board of Trade, town supervisor and assessor of West Chicago, Chicago city assessor, an



organizer of the Boys' Reform School, a "corporator" of the People's Gas, Light and Coke Company, a volunteer fireman, and a member of the Sanitary Commission. He ran for mayor of Chicago twice on the Temperance ticket and again on the Republican ticket and lost each time. His temperance activities extended to the purchase and management of a temperance hotel--the Garden City House, the "best hotel in Chicago"--on which he lost about \$50,000 over fifteen years. He also served in the Illinois House of Representatives for the 1863-64 term, calling it a "Sinque of corruption" in a letter to his daughter Martha.

Amos's strong abolitionist sentiments marked the course of his public service. He had abandoned the Democratic party in 1838 in the wake of a ballot-box-stuffing scandal in Clyde. Once in Chicago, he joined the Old Abolition Party until the Republican Party was formed in the wake of the Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854). In the "Memorandum," he tells of being hanged and burned in effigy by a mob for his opposition to the Fugitive Slave Law (1850) and his denunciation, in the Chicago Common Council, of Illinois Senators Douglas and Shields, who supported it. Amos remarks drily that the lynching killed only the tree, but the episode was no joke. The murder of Elijah Lovejoy, an abolitionist newspaperman of Alton, Illinois, had inflamed people on all points of the slavery debate.

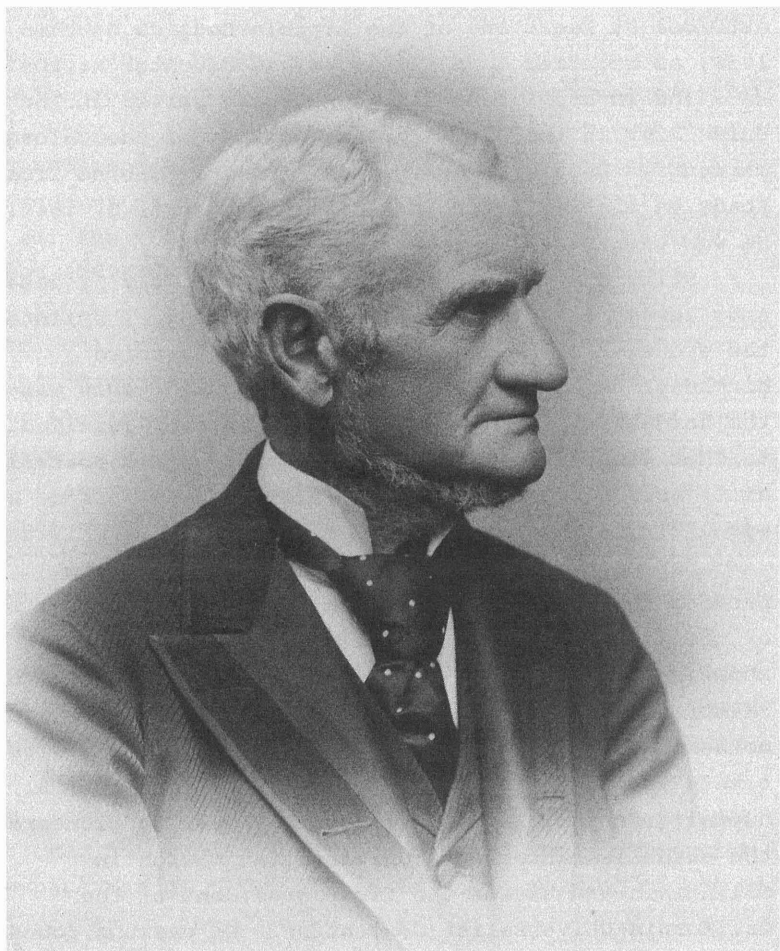
Amos had contact on several occasions with fellow

Illinoisan and Republican Abraham Lincoln, and he attended at least one of the Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858, as recorded in a letter to his daughter Martha.

The Throops' remaining son George served in the Union Army in the Civil War as a member of the Chicago Mercantile Battery. George was killed at Sabine Cross Roads on the Red River in Louisiana on April 8, 1864. He was twenty-four years old.

Still other disasters followed. On July 5, 1864, Amos Throop's left eye was pierced by a steel splinter; the eye was removed on July 22, his fifty-third birthday. Amos notes in the "Memorandum," "This was the hardest shock of my nervous system ever received up to that time." In fact, although most of his portraits after this time show the right profile, the loss of an eye ultimately seems to have deterred Amos very little.

During the 1840s, Amos Throop worked hard to promote the Universalist Church in Chicago. He was one of the founders of the Second Universalist Church, known as the Church of the Redeemer. According to the "Memorandum," he embraced Universalism soon after his mother's death and held fast to it all his life. Its tenets accorded well with his own brand of practical humanitarianism. In his California years, he pioneered the establishment of the Universalist Church in California and became the first president of the California Universalist Convention. He was the founder and major benefactor of the First Universalist Church



Amos Throop, circa 1880, at the beginning of his California period.

of Pasadena, which was later renamed the Throop Memorial Universalist Church.

In 1880, when he was sixty-nine years old, Amos Throop headed west once more. In September he and Eliza set out by train from Chicago to Cheyenne, then travelled south into Colorado, then west to San Francisco. From San Francisco, they went south again, visiting Yosemite, where they ran into President Rutherford B. Hayes and his entourage. Amos reports sharing informal conversation with the President in the lobby of Black's Hotel (October 24, 1880). The Throops arrived in Los Angeles early in December. Here Amos decided to spend the winter, and thus began his love affair with California. By the time he returned to Chicago in the following spring, he had bought a farm in Los Angeles, near what is now the intersection of Jefferson and Main Streets. The farm was to be worked by Amos's brother John and his family, who had barely escaped their Chicago creditors without losing all of their household goods.

Having established a foothold in Southern California, Amos and Eliza were to return every year, and Amos gradually began to spend as little time as possible in Chicago. His projects in California claimed almost all of his attention: he bought orchards and farmland, improved the cultivation and irrigation, built drainage systems, sold his fruit harvest, bought more land, and generally prospered.

His letters report on the record-breaking cold in the winter of '86, his purchase of ten acres of orchards for \$3,000 in 1890, and contain the observation that nearly one thousand men were employed in and around Pasadena in the fruit industry that year. At that time, the population of Pasadena stood at just under 5,000.

The late 1880s saw an enormous real estate boom in Southern California. Amos sold his Los Angeles property and by May of 1887 had relocated in Pasadena, on Orange Grove Avenue. Already the paradisaal conditions in Los Angeles were being threatened by development, as Amos deplores in a letter to Martha: "I was at the Old Ranch yesterday for a few things we left there. It made me sick at heart to know that in a few weeks that beautiful place, with dozens of others nearby are to be all cut to pieces and made into auction sale lots and all the Labor lost that has been spent in planting Vines and Orchards and beautifying the Country." (September 11, 1887)

Soon Amos was active in Pasadena affairs. He served as a member and president of the Board of City Trustees, a member of the Board of Trade and a member and president of the School Board. He contributed the land and substantial funds to build the First Universalist Church. He was instrumental in formulating Pasadena's anti-saloon legislation. By September, 1890, plans were afoot for the founding of a

"university," which opened its doors as Throop University on November 2, 1891. The school occupied the large building at the corner of Fair Oaks and Kansas (now Green) Street, the "Wooster Block," and offered eight courses of study, from "sub-preparatory" to collegiate. The first bulletin describes the purpose of the school: "to furnish students of both sexes and all religious opinions a liberal and practical education, which, while thoroughly Christian, is to be absolutely non-sectarian in its character." The school's enrollment jumped from 50 to 200 in just two years.

Although the school kept its collegiate-level program, it soon shifted its focus to manual arts, becoming Throop Polytechnic Institute in 1893. Working closely with Charles H. Keyes, the school's first president, Amos Throop saw that the training afforded by the manual arts school was greatly needed in this country, and he recognized with pride that his would be the first such school of its kind on the West Coast. His idea of a practical education has endured in the present-day California Institute of Technology, however radically the world of science and technology has changed since the 1890s.

Father Throop, as he was affectionately known in Pasadena, died after a brief illness in his home in this city on March 22, 1894. He was eighty-two years old. He was survived by his wife, Eliza Throop, his



The first home of Throop University in Pasadena, 1891. Called the Wooster Block, the building was located at the corner of Fair Oaks Avenue and Kansas (now Green) Street. It served to house classrooms and other instructional facilities, as well as providing dormitory space, until new buildings--East (Polytechnic) Hall and West Hall--could be built.

daughter Martha, now Mrs. John Charles Vaughan, and three grandsons.

#### ABOUT THE COLLECTION

The Throop Collection was given in 1982 and 1983 to two different institutions--the Chicago Historical Society and the Archives of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. The division of the collection reflects the two periods in the life of Amos G. Throop, the earlier Chicago one and the later California one. However, the materials in the Throop Family Papers in Chicago span the period from 1843 to 1928, the latter year marking the death of Martha Throop Vaughan; those in the Amos Gager Throop Papers at Caltech range between the years 1834 and 1899. For the purpose of the microfiche edition, the collection has been treated as a unit. Order of accession has determined the placement of the Caltech portion in boxes 1 through 5 and the Chicago portion in boxes 6 through 9.

Of particular interest in both parts of the collection is the correspondence. Most of Amos's letters are in the Caltech portion (boxes 1-5), spanning the years from 1842 until his death in 1894. Of greatest interest, perhaps, are those to his daughter Martha--Mattie, when she was young--for it is most often to her that he reveals himself fully. Among the many communications on business, politics, and family matters, one finds a few welcome glimpses into



Amos Throop's mind and emotions. Letters from the 1860s contain allusions to a past, both personal and communal, that was vanishing too quickly even then. He writes in 1866 of a visit to Clyde, Michigan,

where I spent 11. long years of my life & while in the vigor of manhood, for I arrived in that place before I was 21. & and some 8 years before I was married & this was the first Home I had after marriage.... I cannot describe my emotions when allighting from the Stage in front of the verry House we moved out of 23 years ago when we left there for Chicago. Fruit & Shade Trees planted with my own hands had grown to be larger than the Trees around our Garden in Chicago. But what Surprised me most was the fact that I was a Stranger (as it were) in a Strange Land. For those with whom I had lived from 1.<sup>2</sup> to 11. years did not Know me. (August 12, 1866)<sup>2</sup>

Some years later, writing to Martha, Amos again sounds the theme of mutability.

I am reminded, that this is the anniversary of two quite important Events in my life. 38 years ago today I started West, leaveing my native State, relatives & home for Michigan, what was then considered the far West. I was under 21. years of age, a Green, unlearned, & inexperienced Boy. Yet brim full of Energy & life & buoyant with hope, with a determination that I would never return to Old Chenango until I had bettered my Circumstances. My Outfit was a Scanty wardrobe, about \$25.00 in Money, an Old Bulls Eye Silver Watch, & a Clarinet. The Second Event Occured 27. years ago today, when I left Clyde, St. Clair Co., Mich., for Chicago.

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<sup>2</sup>Amos Throop's writing has been minimally edited to preserve the character of the original language.

After recounting some details of the move to Chicago, he continues:

When a Boy, & looking forward 20, 30, 40, & 50 years, it Seemed a very long Pilgrimage--but Standing today & looking back from beyond the longest period named, it Seems but a step. But where are the Companions who started on that long journey with me?... (May 22, 1870)

Any tendency to dwell on the past is all but obliterated in the rebirth of Amos's pioneering spirit after 1880. The great renewal that he experienced upon coming to California is clearly reflected in the tone of his letters to Martha from that time on. Accounts of his first trip to the Far West are alive with wonder and enthusiasm. He records ascending Pike's Peak on horseback and looking down into the clouds: "This was the most sublime sight of my life." (October 3, 1880) From Yosemite he writes: "No human language, or pen, can begin to portray the grandure of the scenes we are witnessing in this region." When he writes from Los Angeles, he lays his cards on the table: "But to me, this place is superior to any I have seen for a residence, in this section, both as to Climate & Society. Business is also more active & everything a family wants can be had here at reasonable rates. I am more & more in love with the Country Every day I remain here." (January 14, 1881)

Two years later, when he had his Los Angeles farm well under cultivation, he writes glowingly of his fruits and vegetables: peaches, pears, apples, figs,

THROOP POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA.

Pasadena Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 1893

Dear Martha

The past week, we have had one of the most interesting demonstrations of Public & Private interest in Educational Matters. Ever before manifested in this County, in honor of what I have done. Read the Editorial in the Star & send you today. The Mayor of the City said in his speech. We have many valuable & respected Citizens, who are spending large sums of money, in erecting costly & elegant homes, which beautify the City, & large & commodious stores and manufactories, & Car Lines, & Rail Roads in Valleys & on the Mountains, and yet they all sink into insignificance when compare to the Throop Polytechnic Institute erected by Father Throop, all but his, were erected for selfish interests, and I said to him ~~that~~ how I thought his remarks a little extraneous. He said in reply, The elevation of humanity rises above, all material things.

I am daily surprised, at the kindly greeting, the friendly grasp of hands, from strangers, & tokens of cheer, & good will, from every one I meet and the offers of aid, from so many unexpected sources. My Teachers, the Students all pay such deference to me, as I meet them, as well as Citizens generally, that it

serves to lighten all my dark forebodings, & cheers me on in the work, and every time I feared that I should be unable to meet pressing obligations, & thereby have trouble, help has come from unexpected sources, & I stand today, relieved from that anxiety for months to come, my work is a grand success, & I have faith it is to continue so.

We had a nice rain on the 22<sup>d</sup> the day after the great Meeting, & last night & this morning with this beautiful rain, & while I am writing the clouds are disappearing <sup>from</sup> the heavens, & the sun is coming out, so I can attend our Christmas Church Service today.

I have not heard a word <sup>directly</sup> from John or any one of the family since they returned, & do not know where any of them are, or what they are doing. They have cast me of as unworthy of notice it appears.

I sent Charley \$400. yesterday, to pay Life Ins due Jan 1, & there will be a little surplus I presume, use that to make you Mother & M. G. present of something she needs (& to all the seasons Compliments.)

A. J. Throop

apricots, plums; oranges, lemons, limes; grapes for the making of raisins; also potatoes, corn and pumpkins. He frequently reports planting, hoeing, picking fruit, or making hay himself.

By December, 1882, Martha and her young sons had made the trip to Los Angeles to visit. Eliza Throop continued to spend at least half the year in Chicago with Martha's family. Amos was gradually being pulled more and more to California. He tried to persuade Martha and her husband to relocate there. More than once he expressed his fears about separation from his family in his old age, but his inability to leave his interests in California in the hands of others became ever more pronounced. By 1893, Eliza Throop had begun to fail mentally and was no longer able to travel to California. In fact she was to outlive Amos by about a year.

Martha Throop's letters are divided between the Caltech and Chicago portions of the collection. The greatest number date from before her marriage in 1877 to J. C. Vaughan. An interesting group belongs to the later 1860s when she lived mostly away from Chicago. On the occasion of her cousin-in-law William Cole's graduation from Harvard Divinity School, in July of 1865, she wrote a full description of the commencement, beginning: "This is a great day throughout these regions. The institution is the pet of the Commonwealth, so in Boston they close their banks and

custom houses and the Gov. and staff, with a long list of distinguished men meet together in Cambridge in solemn conclave." (July 24, 1865)

George Throop's letters form a special group in the Chicago part of the collection. They cover the period from the time he enlisted in the Union Army in November, 1862, until virtually the day of his death, April 8, 1864. They contain a wealth of observations on the conduct and progress of the war, the South and Southerners, and the soldiers' living conditions. There are several vivid, exciting accounts of fighting, including a twelve-page letter describing the battle of Vicksburg, during which the soldiers were able to keep track of time by the chiming of the town clock. (June 10, 1863)

Other correspondents represented in the collection are, on the Throop side, Amos's cousins James Addison Throop and George Throop, and Amos's second son, William. On the Vaughan side, they are J. C. (Charley) Vaughan, Martha's husband; Florence Vaughan, Charley's sister (later Mrs. Carl Cropp); and Martha's three sons, Roger, Leonard and Gager.

After the correspondence, the most defined portion of the collection is Amos Throop's annual diaries. The bulk of these, fourteen years' worth, are in the Chicago portion and represent the years of the 1860s and 1870s. A few diaries--four in number--in the Caltech portion date from the 1880s and 1890s.

The diaries present Amos's day to day doings in short and impersonal form. Here he records his most important activities and business transactions, keeps his accounts, briefly notes important anniversaries and major events, and of course, records the weather. Only in rare instances does the pressure of events provoke commentary of a personal nature. For example, by May 23, 1861, Amos is so angry with the directors of the Chicago Gas Company, he exclaims: "Met the Directors of the Gas Co. & agreed to sign our Death Warrant as a Co.--in order to complete the works--Compelled to accept an infernal Swindle. A hard pill for me to swallow." He carefully notes anniversaries of all sorts: "One year ago we buried William" (September 22, 1861). The first notation on the outbreak of the Civil War is simply "Much war excitement about reinforcing Fort Sumpter [sic]" (April 9, 1861). The full entry for April 15, 1865, reads: "Rainy, warm--News of Mr. Lincoln's assassination last night at 10 1/2 O'clock--Universal mourning. City almost Entirely robed in Emblems of Mourning--Went up to Dredge twice today. She works well. Rec'd 11 1/2 lb. maple sugar of J. E. Throop."

Among the miscellaneous letters and documents in the Caltech portion, several items are worthy of special mention. First, there is a copy of a long letter written by Amos Throop in 1892 to Mrs. Gertrude Hand. There is also a copy of the testimonial,

"In Memory of Martha Throop Vaughan and her father Amos Gager Throop," written in 1928 by Dr. Roger Throop Vaughan, Amos's eldest grandson. Another copy of this testimonial resides in the Chicago portion. The originals of both the letter to Mrs. Hand and the testimonial are in the Caltech Historical Files (see below, Related Collections). Mrs. Hand was a second cousin, and the letter is full of information about Amos's forebears and family connections. Roger Vaughan's memoir is likewise important to the Throop family history and to the history of Chicago. A handsome photograph album and an extensive collection of newspaper clippings, from the period 1863 to 1899, round out the Caltech portion.

There are also two documents of particular interest among the miscellaneous items in the Chicago portion. "The Phrenological Character of A. G. Throop" was done by O. S. Fowler in Chicago in 1850. Of considerable importance is the document entitled "Autobiography of A. G. Throop." This is a typescript copy of the manuscript, "A Memorandum of a Few of the Incidents of My Past Life," composed by Amos in 1877. The original manuscript resides in the Caltech Historical Files, the gift of Mr. Gager Throop Vaughan, a great-grandson of A. G. Throop.

Finally, the Chicago portion contains the manuscripts of Martha Throop Vaughan. Martha inherited her father's resourcefulness and independent spirit.





Martha Throop Vaughan, circa 1905. She was the only one of the four children of Amos and Eliza Throop to survive to maturity.

In her youth, teaching was still the only profession open to women that was both remunerative and genteel. So a teacher she became, living and working on her own for some years until her marriage in 1877 at the age of thirty-four. Later, as her children became older, she redirected her energies into civic affairs, especially the Women's Clubs of Chicago. She was apparently an excellent speaker and organizer. Her manuscripts of talks and reports are lucidly and engagingly written on many different topics, from German literature to horticulture to social issues of the day.

Of special interest is Martha Vaughan's report as representative of the Chrysolite Club to the Sixth Biennial (i.e., national convention) of the Federation of Women's Clubs, held in Los Angeles in May, 1902. Among the many issues and topics of this convention appear the questions of the admission of black ("colored") women's clubs to the Federation; child labor; public health; welfare versus work schemes; and education, particularly co-education. On this last point, the Sunday Editor of the San Francisco Chronicle, Mabel Clare Croft, spoke for equality between the sexes, "since Nature was so rash as to plant them side by side in families." Another speaker in favor of college education for women was David Starr Jordan, president of Stanford University.

Also noteworthy in the Chicago collection is printed material on the World's Congresses of 1893.

These were a series of colloquia held in conjunction with the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in May through October, 1893. A printed program from the opening congress records a presentation by the National-American Woman Suffrage Association, presided over by Susan B. Anthony. The theme of this first congress was women's achievements.

#### RELATED COLLECTIONS

The Throop Collection is supplemented by other materials in the Caltech Archives. In addition to those items mentioned above, there are a number of pertinent documents in the Caltech Historical Files, in the Photo Archives, and in several manuscript and print collections. Artifacts relating to the Throop period (1891-1919) of Caltech have also been preserved in the Archives.

GUIDE TO THE  
AMOS GAGER THROOP COLLECTION

Microfiche Edition

Part I: Papers in the Archives of the  
California Institute of Technology

Section 1: Personal Correspondence

Box 1

Amos Gager Throop - Outgoing

- 1.1-1.3 Eliza B. Throop 1.1 1842, 1868;  
1.2 1883-1886; 1.3 1888, 1890,  
1893
- 1.4 James Addison Throop 1854-1859
- 1.5-1.17 Martha Throop (Vaughan) 1.5 1858,  
1862-1866; 1.6 1867-1870; 1.7  
1871-1875, 1879; 1.8 1880; 1.9  
1881; 1.10 1882-1883; 1.11 1884-  
1886; 1.12 1887-1889; 1.13 1890;  
1.14 1891; 1.15 1892; 1.16 1893;  
1.17 1894

Box 2

- 2.1 Grandsons Vaughan 1881, 1883-1888,  
1890, 1893
- 2.2-2.4 J. C. Vaughan and "friends at home"  
2.2 1880-1881; 2.3 1882-1884,  
1887; 2.4 1892-1894

Eliza V. Throop - Outgoing

- 2.5 Amos G. Throop 1885
- 2.6-2.14 Martha Throop (Vaughan) 2.6 1862-  
1870; 2.7 1872-1875, 1879; 2.8  
1880-1881; 2.9 1882-1885; 2.10  
1887-1889; 2.11 1891; 2.12 1892;  
2.13-2.14 undated
- 2.15 Martha Throop (Vaughan), letters to her  
parents 1865-1867, 1878 [?], 1894

Box 3

- 3.1-3.2 Florence Vaughan to J. C. [Charles]  
Vaughan 3.1 1870-1875; 3.2 1876-1877

Section 2: General Correspondence and Documents

Box 3 (cont'd)

- 3.3-3.4 Condolence letters to Martha Vaughan and Eliza Throop on death of Amos G. Throop 1894 (2 folders)
- 3.5 Condolence letters to Martha Vaughan on death of Eliza Throop 1895
- 3.6 Miscellaneous
- Amos G. Throop to G. Hand 1892 (copy)
  - Gager to "Mama" [Martha Vaughan] 1892
  - George Throop's report card 1856
  - "In Memory of Martha Throop Vaughan and her father Amos Gager Throop," by her son, Dr. Roger Throop Vaughan 1928 (copy)
  - Martha [?] to Eliza Throop n.d.
  - Lombard College 1890
  - Aunt Polly [Harris] n.d.
  - Throop Polytechnic Institute
  - A. G. Throop Memorial Service 1894
  - A. G. Throop n.d. [page 5 only]
  - Eliza Throop's teaching certificate 1834
  - Joe to J. C. Vaughan 1877
  - [?] to J. C. Vaughan n.d.
  - Obituaries:
    - William Throop, father of A. G. Throop [1857]
    - William Throop, son of A. G. Throop [1860]
  - Solomon Wait to brother Gager [i.e., A. G. Throop] 1855
- 3.7 Amos Gager and Eliza Throop 1839-1894
- 3.8-3.11 Amos Gager Throop, annual diaries 3.8 1884; 3.9 1891; 3.10 1892; 3.11 1894

Box 3 (cont'd)

3.12-3.13 Martha Vaughan (2 folders) 1862-1899

3.14 Universalist Church

Box 4

4.1 Photograph album [not microfiched]

4.2 Scrapbook honoring Amos G. Throop and  
Eliza V. Throop on their 50th wedding  
anniversary, 1888 [partially  
microfiched]

Section 3: Newspaper Clippings

Box 5

5.1-5.9 1863-1899: A. G. Throop, Throop  
family, Throop University,  
Universalist Church, Pasadena,  
miscellaneous (9 folders)  
[folders 1 through 7 microfiched]

Part II: Papers at the Chicago Historical Society

Box 6

Amos Gager Throop  
Annual Diaries

6.1	1861
6.2	1863
6.3	1865
6.4	1866, 1867
6.5	1870
6.6	1872
6.7	1873
6.8	1874

Box 7

7.1	1876
7.2	1877
7.3	1878
7.4	1879
7.5	1886 [photocopy]

Box 7 (cont'd)

- 7.6 Miscellaneous documents  
    "The Phrenological Character of A.  
      G. Throop" 1850  
    "Autobiography of A. G. Throop"  
      1877 (copy)  
    Election to Sanitary Commission  
      1863  
    Record of City Treasurer, Chicago  
      1864  
    Miscellaneous programs and receipts
- George Throop [son of A. G. Throop]  
    Correspondence - outgoing, to friends  
      and family
- 7.7 1861, 1862  
7.8 Jan - Jun 1863  
7.9 July - Dec 1863  
7.10 Jan - Feb 1864  
7.11 Mar - Apr 1864

Box 8

- Correspondence - incoming, from family
- 8.1 1861, 1862  
8.2 1863  
8.3 Jan - Feb 1864  
8.4 Mar - Apr 1864
- Correspondence - incoming, from friends
- 8.5 1858-1861  
8.6 1862  
8.7 Jan - Jun 1863  
8.8 Jul - Dec 1863  
8.9 1864
- 8.10 Miscellaneous documents 1859-1864
- 8.11 George Throop [cousin of A. G. Throop]  
    correspondence 1843-1846
- 8.12 William Throop [son of A. G. Throop]  
    correspondence 1858
- 8.13 Florence Vaughan, correspondence and  
    documents 1877-1878

Box 8 (cont'd)

- 8.14 John Charles Vaughan, correspondence and documents 1877-1908

Box 9

- Martha Throop Vaughan
- 9.1 Correspondence 1868-1894
- 9.2 "In Memory of Martha Throop Vaughan and her father, Amos Gager Throop," by her son, Dr. Roger Throop Vaughan 1928
- Manuscripts
- 9.3 "Das Nibelung Lied or The Lay of the Nibelungs" n.d.
- 9.4 "History of the Second Universalist Church of Chicago" 1903
- 9.5 Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs, trip report n.d.
- 9.6 Lecture on ferns n.d.
- 9.7 "Popular Opinions" n.d.
- 9.8 "Report of the Sixth Biennial of the Federation of Women's Clubs," Los Angeles 1902
- 9.9 School Childrens Aid Society ca 1900
- 9.10 Story, "The Club Girl," multiple authors n.d.
- 9.11 Talk to women's club on service and love n.d.
- 9.12 West End Women's Club  
President's address 1903  
Eulogy ca 1915  
In Memorium n.d.
- 9.13 Miscellany
- 9.14 The World Congress of 1893, miscellaneous documents
- 9.15 Throop/Vaughan, family correspondence 1857-1928



#### NOTE ON THROOP GENEALOGY

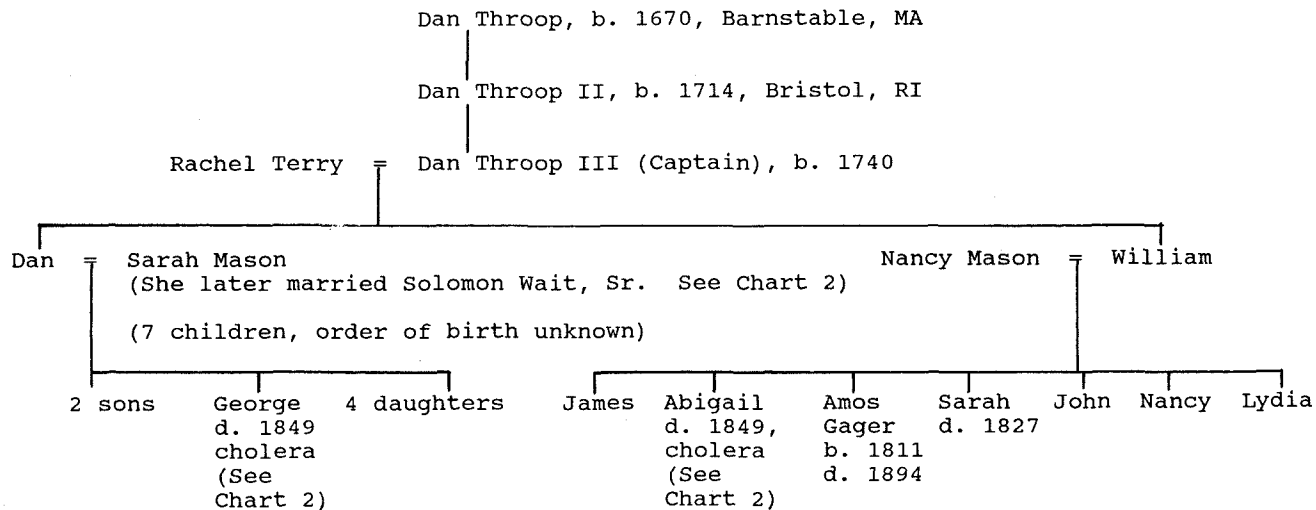
The Throop family was a large one, and to complicate matters, they regularly married their in-laws and cousins. Amos Throop's mother, Nancy Mason, was one of sixteen children who lived to maturity. She married William Throop, and her sister Sarah married his brother, Dan Throop. Both marriages resulted in seven children, three boys and four girls (see A. G. Throop's letter to Gertrude Hand, July 13, 1892). Later Sarah Mason Throop married Solomon Wait, Amos's father-in-law. Thus Amos writes to Mrs. Hand: "Your Grand Mother was my wifes Step Mother---and at the Same time My Aunt. Singularly Mixed."

The Throop family tree is provided to assist users of the collection in placing persons referred to in the papers in context. No claim is made for its accuracy or completeness.

## THROOP GENEALOGY

CHART 1

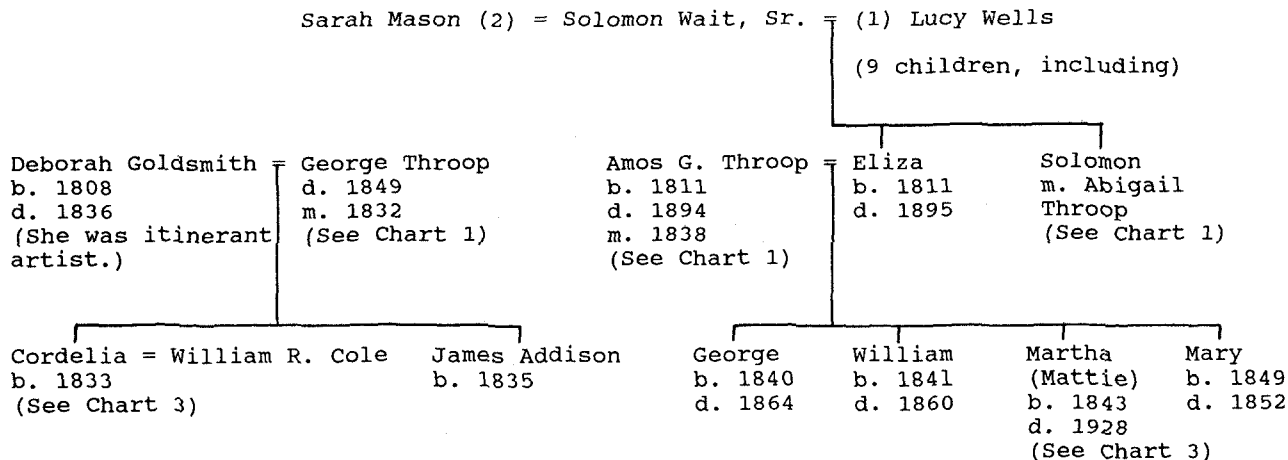
AMOS G. THROOP'S FOREBEARS AND COUSINS ON THE THROOP SIDE



# THROOP GENEALOGY

## CHART 2

### AMOS G. THROOP'S CHILDREN AND THEIR THROOP COUSINS



# THROOP GENEALOGY

## CHART 3

### AMOS G. THROOP'S DESCENDANTS

Cordelia Throop = William R. Cole  
 b. 1833  
 (See Chart 2)

Son  
 d. young

Elbert Smith = Olive

Dan Throop Smith =  
 d. 1982

Martha Throop = John Charles Vaughan  
 b. 1843 b. 1851  
 d. 1928 d. 1924  
 (See Chart 2) m. 1877

Roger T. = Frances  
 b. 1878 Louise Lord  
 d. 1950 b. 1887  
 m. 1911

Leonard H. Charles  
 b. 1880 Gager  
 d. 1943 b. 1881  
 (6 sons, d. 1899  
 1 dau.)

Martha John David Mary-Frances  
 b. 1912 b. 1914 b. 1915 b. 1919  
 d. 1967 d. 1964

Index to Throop Genealogy  
(Women indexed by maiden name)

Cole, Olive - Chart 3  
Cole, William R. - Chart 2, 3  
Goldsmith, Deborah - Chart 2  
Lord, Frances Louise - Chart 3  
Mason, Nancy - Chart 1  
Mason, Sarah - Chart 1  
Smith, Dan Throop - Chart 3  
Smith, Elbert - Chart 3  
Terry, Rachel - Chart 1  
Throop, Abigail - Chart 1  
Throop, Amos Gager - Chart 1, 2  
Throop, Cordelia - Chart 2, 3  
Throop, Dan (I) - Chart 1  
Throop, Dan (II) - Chart 1  
Throop, Dan (III) - Chart 1  
Throop, Dan (IV) - Chart 1  
Throop, George (cousin of A. G.) - Chart 1, 2  
Throop, George (son of A. G.) - Chart 2  
Throop, James (brother of A. G.) - Chart 1  
Throop, James Addison (cousin of A. G.) - Chart 2  
Throop, John - Chart 1  
Throop, Lydia - Chart 1  
Throop, Martha (Mattie) - Chart 2, 3  
Throop, Mary - Chart 2  
Throop, Nancy - Chart 1  
Throop, Sarah - Chart 1  
Throop, William (father of A. G.) - Chart 1  
Throop, William (son of A. G.) - Chart 2  
Vaughan, Charles Gager - Chart 3  
Vaughan, David - Chart 3  
Vaughan, John - Chart 3  
Vaughan, John Charles (J. C., Charley) - Chart 3  
Vaughan, Leonard - Chart 3  
Vaughan, Martha - Chart 3  
Vaughan, Mary-Frances - Chart 3  
Vaughan, Roger Throop - Chart 3  
Wait, Eliza - Chart 2  
Wait, Solomon (Jr.) - Chart 2  
Wait, Solomon (Sr.) - Chart 1, 2  
Wells, Lucy - Chart 2